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REPORT

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COUNTRY Austria

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SUBJECT Soviet Aircraft Observer System in Austria

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25X1

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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Soviet Army aircraft observer posts (Vozdushnoye nablyudeniye, opoveshcheniye i svyaz' - VNOS) were organized along the Soviet - US zonal border of Austria. Headquarters for a VNOS unit of about company strength was stationed in Mauer Oehling Δ N 48-07, E 14-48 together with the headquarters of the 290th Regt. This VNOS unit had about 40 soldiers; In April 1953 there were some rumors that this company was supposed to move to St. Peter, 18 km. southwest of Mauer Oehling.

25X1

2. VNOS post No. 9 was located on the road leading from Steyr in the US Zone of Austria into the Soviet Zone. The post was located approximately three to four kilometers from Steyr. The VNOS crew there consisted of five members: one junior sergeant by the name of MOROZOV; two radio operators; and two telephone operators. The post was equipped with a radio set of the RBM-1 type and one telephone of the TAI-43 type. In front of the post-barrack, in the open, this VNOS post had a piece of equipment in the form of a round table approximately 70 cm. in diameter with indicated directions North, South, West, and East and 360° division of the perimeter. In the middle this table had an arrow which could be turned by hand and pointed in any desired direction on the table. On the whole, this piece of equipment was very similar to a compass of a large size. The table was set in the way that indicated the exact direction to the North. this piece of equipment was made by crew soldiers under the supervision of their superiors. each VNOS post was

25X1

25X1

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

25X1

Page Denied

CONFIDENTIAL

-2-

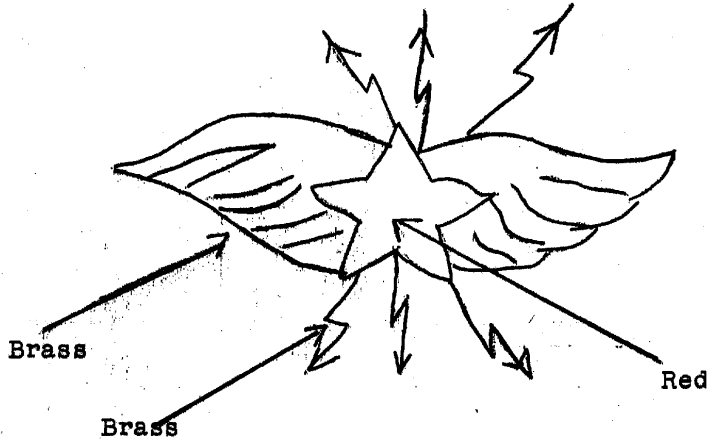
25X1

equipped with two binoculars. [redacted] VNOS post No. 10 was located in St. Peter, where the headquarters of the 3rd Bn., 290th Rifle Regt. was stationed. The crew of this post consisted of six members, since in addition to the men mentioned at post No. 9, post No. 10 had one senior sergeant [redacted]

25X1

25X1

3. Soldiers assigned to VNOS posts wore a regular Soviet Army uniform with black shoulder boards with black piping and signal insignia of the type shown below:



[redacted] the VNOS posts in Austria were subordinate to the 290th Rifle Regt. [redacted] there was a case when a CO of the 290th Rifle Regt. put a VNOS soldier in the stockade for some disciplinary violation. Shortly after that a VNOS sergeant arrived and released this soldier, refusing to recognize the disciplinary jurisdiction of the 290th Rifle Regt. CO over VNOS soldiers.

25X1

25X1

25X1

5. [redacted] the VNOS Company in Mauer Oehling had 14 VNOS posts along the Austrian zonal border.

25X1

25X1

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25X1

Page Denied